

# Keeping Up!

Web feeds for information literate librarians



Lorie Kloda & Genevieve Gore  
McGill University Library  
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Associated website:

<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/wilu/2007/rss.html>

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## Workshop Objectives

Reflection: What are your objectives for this workshop?



## What are Feeds?

Feeds (or “web feeds”) are online content that have been marked-up and can be useful for current awareness.

A web feed is a way for websites to continuously “feed” you announcements of their latest content, with links to each new item. To instantly learn what’s new on a site, just check its feed.

### RSS

- Rich Site Summary, renamed → RDF Site Summary (RSS 1.0)
- Really Simple Syndication (RSS 2.0)
- An XML application for publishing content on the web

### Atom

A competing protocol which offers an alternative to RSS for the same purpose.

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## What is a blog?

Web **log** = Blog

A website powered by software that simplifies publishing, organizing, and syndicating web content.

Blogs are online journals where individuals, or groups of individuals, or institutions may post information, links, or headlines. The information is organized in reverse chronological order, so the most recent posting is the first. Many blogs also have added organizational attributes: archives by month/year of previous posts, and posts organized by subject matter.

## How does RSS work?

In the same way that a web page is a file that uses HTML coding to determine how the page is displayed, RSS is a file that uses XML (Extensible Mark-up Language) to encode headlines, titles and text so that they can be read by an RSS reader.

If a website has an RSS (or Atom) feed, it might make it obvious by using a little orange RSS or XML, or “subscribe using...” button. Otherwise you can usually tell by the format of the page, as in this example of a blog:



If you click the XML or RSS button, you get a page (the source code) that looks something like this:

```
<!-- generator="wordpress/2.0.2" -->
<rss version="2.0">
  <channel>
    <title>Library Web Chic</title>
    <link>http://www.librarywebchic.net/wordpress</link>
    <description>
      Resources for librarians who are interested in the application of web design and technologies in libraries
    </description>
    <pubDate>Thu, 06 Apr 2006 17:56:56 +0000</pubDate>
    <generator>http://wordpress.org/?v=2.0.2</generator>
    <language>en</language>
  </channel>
  <item>
    <title>Creating Print Stylesheets for Your Blog</title>
    <link>
      http://www.librarywebchic.net/wordpress/2006/04/06/creating-print-stylesheets-for-your-blog/
    </link>
    <comments>
      http://www.librarywebchic.net/wordpress/2006/04/06/creating-print-stylesheets-for-your-blog/#comments
    </comments>
    <pubDate>Thu, 06 Apr 2006 17:56:56 +0000</pubDate>
    <dc:creator>Karen</dc:creator>
    <category>CSS</category>
    <guid isPermaLink="false">
      http://www.librarywebchic.net/wordpress/2006/04/06/creating-print-stylesheets-for-your-blog/
    </guid>
    <description>
      I spent part of today writing print stylesheets for our Movable Type weblogs and my own personal blog. One thing I think is crucial with print stylesheets is that less is more. This means a couple of things when you are trying to optimize the page for print. First, that stylesheet you have been using [...]
    </description>
    <content:encoded>
      <p> I spent part of today writing print stylesheets for our Movable Type weblogs and my own personal blog. One thing I think is crucial with print stylesheets is that less is more. This means a couple of things when you are trying to optimize the page for print. First, that stylesheet you have been using all along needs to be set up so that it is for screen only. This means in Movable Type you take and change this:<p> <p>&lt;link rel=&#8221;stylesheet&#8221; href=&#8221;&lt;SMTBlogURL&gt;styles-site.css&#8221; type=&#8221;text/css&#8221; /&gt;&lt;br /&gt; to this<br /&gt; &lt;link rel=&#8221;stylesheet&#8221; href=&#8221;&lt;SMTBlogURL&gt;styles-site.css&#8221; type=&#8221;text/css&#8221; media=&#8221;screen&#8221; /&gt; </p> <p> If you don&#8217;t do this you will be fighting your screen styles when you create your print stylesheet. This is bad and makes lots more work. Having the stylesheet only be for media-type &#8220;screen&#8221; is the default in Wordpress so you don&#8217;t have to worry about this. Once you have done this you can start formatting the print version from scratch. Without a print
```

Not all sites use the RSS or XML style buttons, since publishing content in this format has become so ubiquitous. Most of the time, it is obvious by the format of the webpage that the content is in the form of a feed. Sometimes the site will have a unique button, icon, or link inviting you to subscribe to the content using a feed reader.

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## What does RSS look like?

Most blogs, RSS, and Atom formatted web pages can be read by any of these readers. Just look for the subscribe button on a website to add the site to your feed reader.

In April of 2006, an attempt was made to tandardize the icon used to indicate content was available in the form of a feed. This icon can be any colour, and is represented by the small square portraying broadcast signals:



This workbook is going to use **Bloglines** as an example feed reader.

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## What is a Podcast?



A podcast, simply stated, is an audio file (usually MP3) available via RSS. That means you can subscribe to audio content similar to the way you can subscribe to textual/image content.

The word **podcast** combines the terms iPod and broadcast, but podcasts can be listened to using any device that can play audio content (e.g. a PC or MP3 player).

Many podcasts are available free of charge, and can take the format of a radio show, a training program, music, fiction, IT manual, etc.

## Why should I use RSS?

If you think you already get enough email in a day, you may wonder how reading more content from feeds is going to benefit you and your work. The advantage to RSS is that it can keep a good part of your current awareness content separate from your email, thus freeing up your inbox for more personal or direct communication.

Compared to other forms of sharing information, RSS offers several advantages:

- Less clicking: Avoid repeatedly checking websites to see if there is any new content; content is delivered to you in one place
- Avoid clutter and spam in your inbox; no pop-ups
- Items appear as unread until you look at them (or tag them for future reading) and do not get lost in your inbox; once read, they will not appear again
- Streamlined appearance of text in an easy-to-read and easy-to-navigate display interface.
- RSS feeds often available for tables of contents (TOCs)
- SDI: Search once, have new search results delivered to you without re-executing the search

Technologies for Communication		
email	emailing lists	RSS feeds
Two-way communication	Mostly one-way communication	Mostly one-way communication
One-to-one one-to-many	One-to-many Many-to-many	One-to-many
Letter by post	Mass-mailings, newsletters, conference networking	Newspapers, magazines

---

## Methods for getting feeds

The most commonly used method is feed readers or aggregators. A feed reader is like a web browser for RSS formatted content.

Feed (or RSS) readers keep a list of your chosen feeds, check those feeds regularly, and display their contents for you in a readable format.

You subscribe to a particular feed, and your reader will then check that feed and list the latest items and summaries from that site, in date and time order. It does this for each feed that you subscribe to. You can then quickly scan your list of feeds to see which have new content, and then quickly scan the new content from each individual feed. You can choose to do this once a week, once or day, or more often than that – and the reader will just show you what's new since you last looked.

There are several types of feed readers, with lots of different readers to choose from, depending on how you prefer to work. Some are stand-alone or web-based, while others are integrated into browsers or email clients. Finally, it is possible to create email alerts from feeds for those who prefer not to use a reader to monitor content.

Below is a list of the various methods for getting feeds, with some examples.

**1. Web-based feed readers**

Bloglines  
Google Reader

**2. Desktop feed readers**

FeedDemon  
NetNewsWire

**3. Start Page or Portal**

NetVibes  
MyYahoo!

**4. Built-in/add-in to Browsers**

Internet Explorer 7  
Firefox  
Flock  
Opera 9  
Safari

**5. Email-based client**

NewsGator  
Thunderbird 2

**6. Subscribe using email**

R|Mail  
RSSfwd

A complete list of feed readers is available from RSS Compendium at <http://allrss.com/rssreaders.html>





# Creating a Bloglines Account

## How do I register with Bloglines?

Bloglines is an easy way to organize and keep track of feeds. It seems to be popular with librarians, perhaps because it's so easy to use and access.

- Go to Bloglines and register.
- You will need to enter your email address and a password (see Bloglines privacy policy).
- Make sure to mark down your username (email address) and password for future use!

**BLOGLINES**

**Username:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Password:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Once you submit your information, you will have to click on the link in their confirmation email to be fully registered.

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## How can I change the settings in my account?

- Click on *Account* in the upper right corner to change your email address or password.
- You can also change *Other Account Settings* here such as your time zone, the language (English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish), whether you would like to subscribe to the Bloglines newsletter, or the font size.

Basics | [Blog Settings](#) | [User Profile](#) | [Feed Options](#) | [Publisher Tools](#) | [Developer Tools](#)

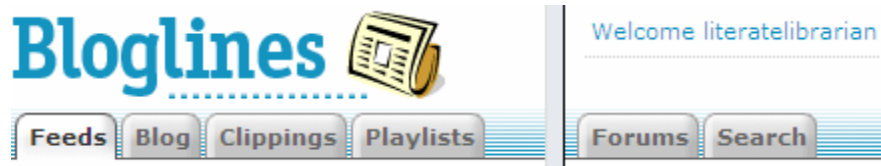
## Downloading the Bloglines Notifier

The Bloglines Notifier is an application you can download to any machine and set up to alert you when you have new items to read from your subscriptions. It is also an easy access point to your Bloglines account.

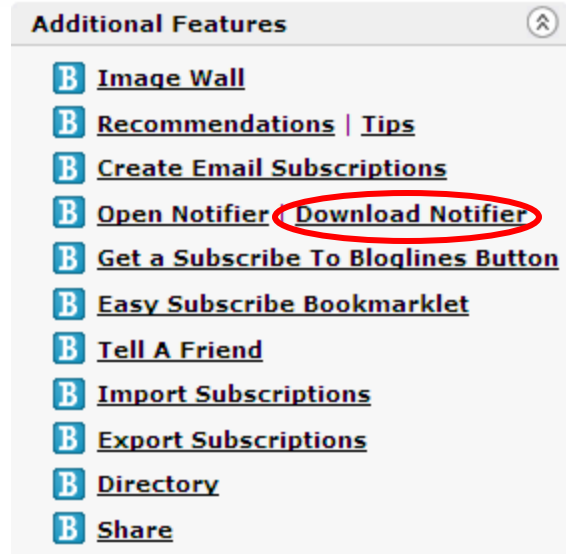
It works similarly to an email notifier that sits in your system tray and notifies you when you have new mail.

If you often use the same workstation (i.e. at the office or at work), it is recommended that you download the Notifier to each machine.

- Make sure you've selected the *Feeds* tab in the upper left corner.



- At the bottom of the *Feeds* column, under *Additional Features*, you should see a link called **Download Notifier**: Click on it.
- Find your operating system in the list. The Windows Notifier supports 95/98/ME/2000/NT/XP.
- Download it to your machine. In Internet Explorer, you will be prompted to run or save the Notifier: hit *Run* (don't worry about the security messages about the publisher).
- Once you've installed it, the Bloglines icon should show up in your System Tray (bottom right of your screen) if you're using Windows.



- **Remember:** If you change your email address in Bloglines, you will have to update it in the Notifier as well: Right-click on the Notifier icon, click on *Settings*, and change email address there.



# Tools for Adding Feeds to Bloglines

You can subscribe to a feed using one of at least 5 methods:

- (1) Click on the RSS icon in your browser URL box (Firefox v. 1.5 or up, Safari) or browser toolbar (Internet Explorer 7)

or

- (2) Use the *Subscribe with Bloglines* bookmarklet which you must install in your *Bookmarks* or *Links* toolbar

or

- (3) On the Download Notifier page, you can download the Internet Explorer Extension to add a *Bloglines: Subscribe* option to your right-click context menu in IE.

or

- (4) In Bloglines, use the *Search for posts* or *Subscribe to URL* options in the select menu (drop-down box) in the upper right corner.

or

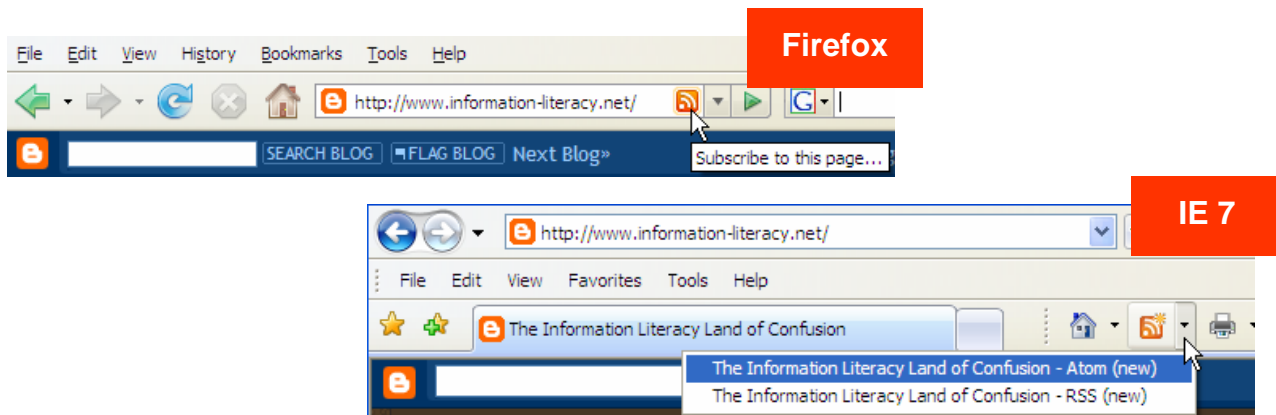
- (5) Click on the *XML*, *RSS*, *ATOM*, *Sub with Bloglines*, *Bloglines* button or link within the website containing the feed; then use the *Subscribe with Bloglines* button (you will sometimes have to use this extra step)

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## (1) RSS icon in browser URL bar



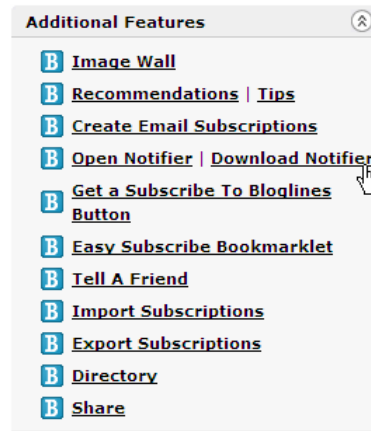
Both Firefox v. 1.5 and higher as well as Internet Explorer 7.0 display an RSS icon in their URL (or address) bar if the browser is able to auto-discover a feed. If a feed icon is not present, don't assume that feeds are not available. Still, this is the easiest tool to use if you would like to subscribe to an RSS feed.



## (2) Bookmarklet (requires install)

A bookmarklet lives on the links bar of your browser. It is a small Javascript program that automates some repetitive tasks or adds new functionality to your browser. The Bloglines bookmarklet can be used to subscribe to a feed in one click. This is particularly useful if you are still using Internet Explorer v. 6.

Sub with Bloglines



### How do I install the Bloglines Subscribe bookmarklet in my browser?

Make sure the *Feeds* tab is selected (top left), scroll down if necessary to *Additional Features* and click on *Easy Subscribe Bookmarklet*

On the right panel you will see these instructions on using these Bookmarklets. For Firefox browsers you can just drag the button to the bookmark bar of your browser.

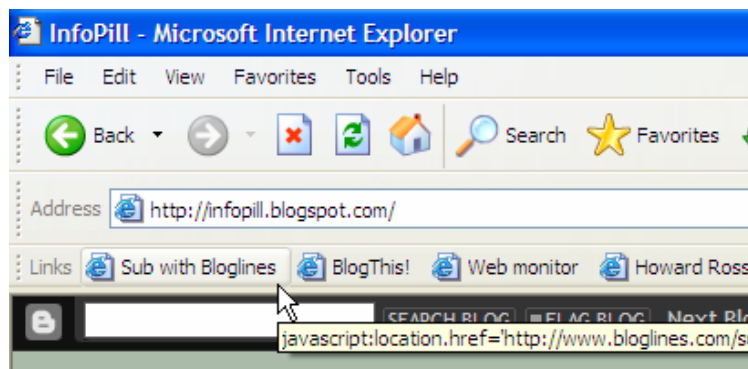
#### If you use Internet Explorer:

For IE the process is slightly different: right-click on the button within the IE instructions and select *Add to Favorites*.

Add it to the *Links* folder under *Favorites*: This will allow you to display the bookmarklet in your IE *Links* Toolbar.

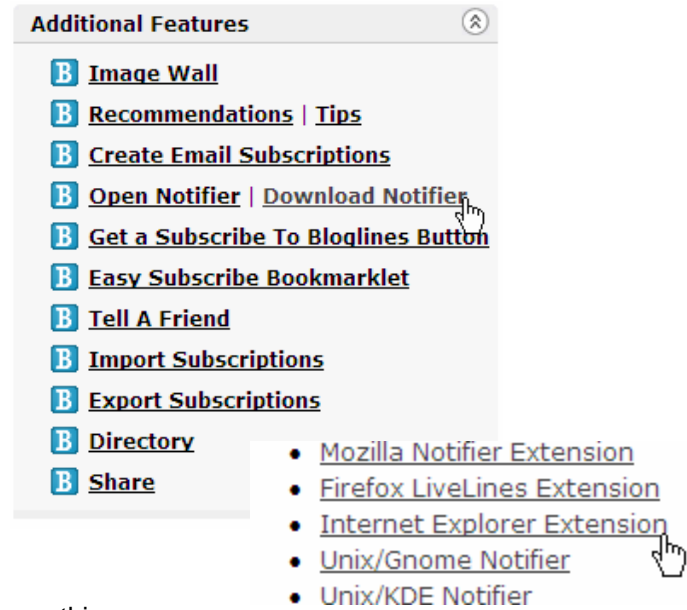
**Make sure the *Links* toolbar is visible (from the IE menu, ensure *View > Toolbars > Links* is checked).**

The Bloglines bookmarklet in IE 6:



### (3) Right-click context menu for IE (requires install)

- Make sure the **Feeds** tab is selected (top left), scroll down if necessary to 'Additional Features' and click on *Download Notifier*
- On the right, click on *Internet Explorer Extension*
- Click *Download Now*
- Follow the instructions provided on the page
- Don't worry about the security warnings: Click *Run, Run* when prompted
- Close Internet Explorer; the next time you use IE, you will be able to use the **Bloglines: Subscribe** option in your right-click context menu

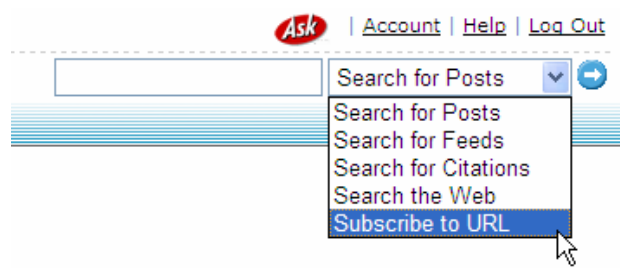


If pop-ups are blocked on your machine, you can access this menu item by holding down the Ctrl key while you click on the *Bloglines: Subscribe* link.

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### (4) Bloglines

You can also subscribe to feeds using Bloglines or other feed readers.



## (5) Feed link or icon on a web page

Many blogs or news sites feature buttons or links within their web pages which advertise the fact that a feed is available. If you click on these links, you will often see the .xml file. However, it's not necessary to view the .xml file to subscribe: you should be able to subscribe using your Bloglines bookmarklet (see 2) or the right-click context menu in Internet Explorer (see 3). You can also copy and paste the .xml URL into Bloglines (see 5). In some cases, an RSS button or link will be present on the web page but your browser will not know a feed is available (see 1), so it's useful to know what other options you have for subscribing, even if you are using Firefox or Internet Explorer 7.



The screenshot shows the CBC News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CBC logo, "RADIO TV" buttons, and search fields. Below this is a red banner with "CBCnews" and "WORLD" text. On the left, a vertical menu lists categories like "World", "Canada", "Health", etc. A mouse cursor is pointing to an "RSS World News Feed" link. The main content area features a large article titled "MI-5's missed chance: Transit bombers tailed but not stopped" with a photo of a person with flowers. To the right, there are smaller article teasers for "MEXICO Connie Watson" and "IN DEPTH Sikh militancy".



# Subscribing to Feeds

## Subscribing to feeds from pre-selected sources

Try subscribing to one or more of the following feeds using any of the tools described previously. Explore their content before deciding if the feed is of interest to you:

### **Information literacy feeds:**

Information Literacy In Canada (CLA Interest Group)  
Information Literacy Land of Confusion  
Information Literacy and Fluency (EDUCAUSE)  
Information Literacy Weblog  
Information Literacy by Example  
Librarians with Class

### **Teaching and learning feeds:**

elearnspace  
Learning for 2020  
Teaching and Learning (EDUCAUSE)

### **Library feeds:**

ACRLog  
The Kept-Up Academic Librarian  
librarian.net  
LISnews.org  
TechSource



# Finding and Selecting Feeds

## Search engines, directories, predefined feeds

If you want to see what feeds are out there, use a directory/search engine for blogs or feeds to browse or search using keywords. The directory will bring back a list of feed posts that match those keywords. Viewing more of the posts of a particular feed will likely give you an idea about whether or not you would like to subscribe to that feed.

### General:

#### **Technorati**

- Lists top searches, top tags, search in blog posts, tags or directories

#### **Google Blog Search**

- Allows you to create an RSS feed based on a search

#### **BlogPulse**

- Trend search allows you to graph trends in use of terminology within the blogosphere
- “A service of Nielsen BuzzMetrics”

#### **Your Feed Reader** (e.g., Bloglines)

### Library:

#### **LibWorm**

- Over 1,500 RSS feeds searched; create an RSS feed from a predefined search
- Predefined feed categories, subjects, tags

#### **LisZen**

- Search over 600 library blogs; search plugin for IE 7 and Firefox 2.0

#### **Blogging Libraries Wiki**

- Created by Amanda Etches-Johnson; updated in wiki fashion
- Organized into categories of libraries (academic, public, school, special)
- Additional categories: library associations, library Director blogs, internal blogs

#### **Blawg Search**

- Search legal blogs and create an RSS feed from a predefined search

### Academic:

#### **Intute RSS channels**

- Pre-defined RSS channels by subject: Subscribe to be notified of new resources within a subject

#### **Peterson’s College and University Feed Directory**

- Links organized by categories, e.g. blogs, journals and publications, news, podcasts, research centers, technology

#### **Academic Blog Portal**

- List of academic blogs by subject, updated in wiki fashion



## Find feeds using a directory

Try browsing in LisZen for starters.

**Search** will retrieve items, or postings, containing the keyword you entered: Remember that posts are individual entries within a blog, and form part of the feed: They are not the feed itself.

**List of Blogs** organizes library-related feeds alphabetically by title.

- Go to *List of Blogs*
- For example: InfoPill – click on the link to take you to the blog itself

Use your *Subscribe with Bloglines* bookmarklet or any other method that works for you to add this feed to Bloglines



## Subscribing to Table of Contents

### Journal Table of Contents

Alternative to emailed TOC alerts.

Many journal publishers now offer table of contents alerts in RSS format. Most links are available from the individual journal home page, and some offer groups of journals as a single feed.

The following publishers offer feeds of their journals' table of contents:

ACS Publications	IEEE Xplore
American Institute of Physics	Ingenta Connect
APA PsycArticles	JAMA & Archives
APS Journals	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
arXiv	National Research Council (NRC) Canada
BioMed Central RSS Feeds	Nature Publishing Group
Blackwell Synergy	Oxford Journals
BMJ Journals Online	PLoS – Public Library of Science
Cambridge Journal Online	PNAS Journals
Cell Press	Project MUSE
EDP Sciences	ProQuest Dissertations & Theses
Highwire Press	Royal Society of Chemistry
IEEE Computer Society	University of Chicago Press

For a select listing of individual journals that offer RSS feeds, visit the University of Saskatchewan's list of e-journals with RSS feeds at: [https://library.usask.ca/ejournals/rss\\_title/A](https://library.usask.ca/ejournals/rss_title/A)

Ulrich's Periodicals Directory can also be searched to find titles that offer feeds. Use the *advanced search* feature in the menu and under "features" select *RSS Available* before conducting a search.

## Repository Contents

Some institutional or subject repositories allow subscriptions using feed readers. Rather than monthly or quarterly updates as for TOCs, these alert you whenever new content is added.

Some repositories allow you to create a customized feed by subject or author.

Library and information science repositories that offer feeds:

E-LIS: E-prints in Library & Information Science

CORIL: Cooperative Online Repository for Information Literacy

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Reflection: For what topics would you like to keep current?

**Subject Areas:**

**Journals:**

**Blogs:**



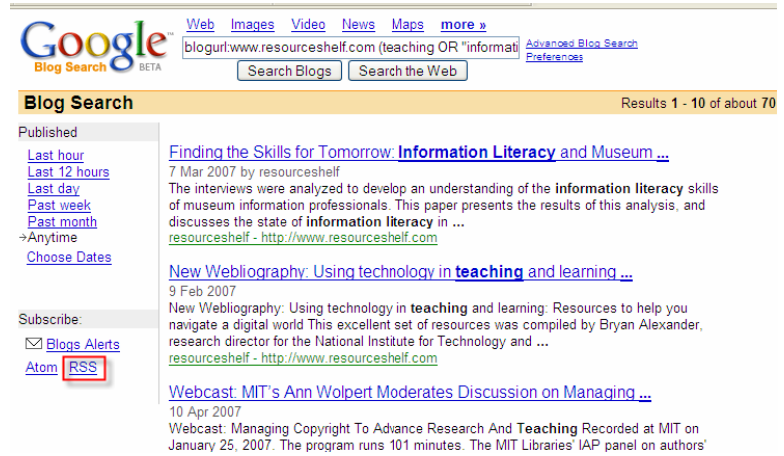
# Create and Save a Search Alert as an RSS Feed

Saved search feature available via:

Google News or Google Blog Search

Say you would like to

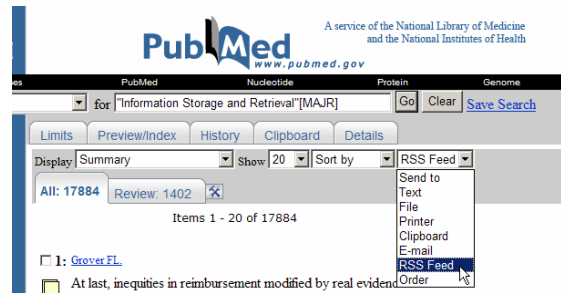
- Go to Google Blog Search
- Type in your search query.
- Do you like Resource Shelf but find the amount of content overwhelming? Restrict a search to this site using *blogurl:www.resourceshelf.com* and add your search terms
- Once Google has returned results, you can click on *RSS* in the left-hand column to subscribe to that saved search. To subscribe to the feed, click on the *Subscribe with Bloglines* button in your toolbar.



**Sites providing saved search feeds:**

- blinkx
- Feedster
- Google News
- Google Blog Search
- MSN Live Search
- PubMed
- technorati
- Topix
- WasaLive!
- Yahoo Pipes

e.g.



# Saved search feature in proprietary databases

## EBSCOhost

- Go to LISTA: Library and Information Science & Technology Abstracts (free database)  
<http://www.libraryresearch.com/>

[Sign In](#) | [Folder](#) | [Preferences](#) | [New Features!](#) | [Help](#)

- Click on *New Features* in the upper right corner



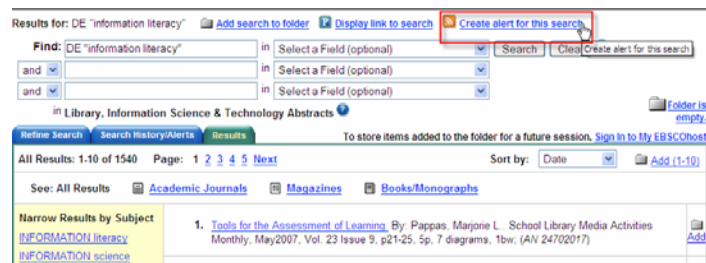
- Check the *Try It!* box under *One Step Alerts*

**One Step Alerts**

**Try It!** Feature enabled

You will be able to create an Alert directly from the Result List, Search History, or the Publication list. Create instant RSS feed Alerts by clicking on the orange RSS Feed icons.

- Click on *Create alert for this search*



- Subscribe to the link

### Subscription databases offering custom search feeds (SDI):

EBSCOhost  
Engineering Village 2  
Scopus  
Web of Knowledge

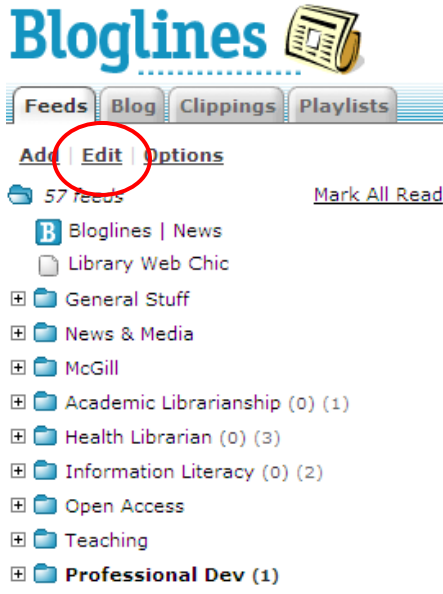
### Subscription databases offering RSS channels:

Factiva  
Proquest <http://www.il.proquest.com/syndication/rss/rss.shtml>



# Organizing Your Feeds

Once you've added feeds into Bloglines, you can edit, and sort or re-order the feeds themselves and "clip" particularly useful items from feeds into your own *Clippings* file for later reference.



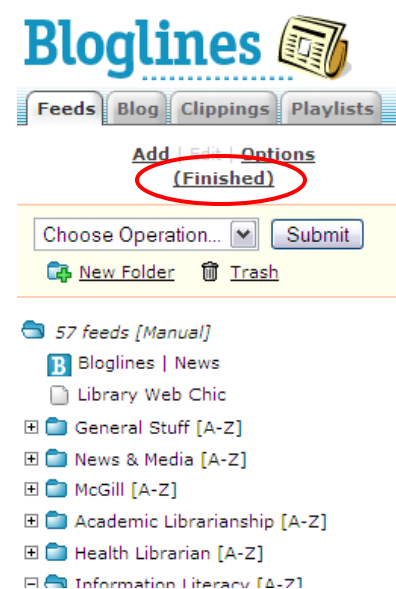
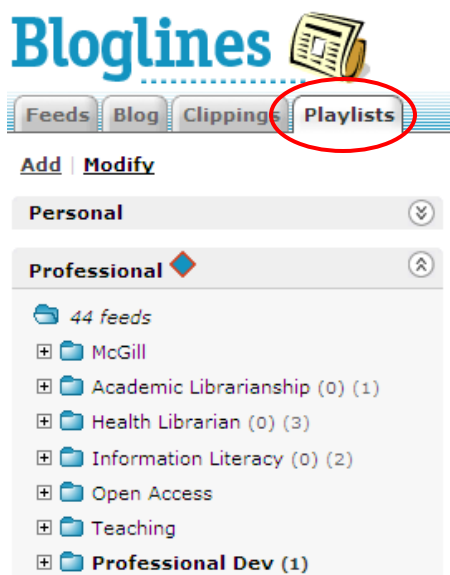
Click on the *Edit* link, and the left hand side of your screen will refresh to look like this:



You can now delete a feed, create folders to categorize your feeds, and move your feeds around into different folders.

- Create a **new folder** by clicking on the *New Folder* icon.
- **Rename a feed** inline. Click once to select the item and click a second time to edit the name.
- **Unsubscribe or delete a folder** by dragging it to the trash can. (To cancel a drag, tap the Esc key.)
- To **manually sort**, simply drag and drop into place; use the arrow keys or mouse wheel to scroll.
- To **sort automatically**, make your selection and then choose from the *Choose Operation* dropdown menu. You can sort alphabetically, reverse alpha, by oldest or newest first, or by the number of unread items.
- If you do not wish for some feeds to appear in your blogroll, you can keep them secret. Just mark them as **private** using the *Choose Operation* drop down menu, and those feeds won't be listed.

Once you've finished editing your feeds, you must make sure you click on the *Finished* link underneath the *Edit* link, in the top left-hand corner of your screen, so that the editing options close, and you can use your feeds as normal.



Bloglines has also added an extra feature of *Playlists* as an alternative method for organizing your feeds, similar to the way one would organize their music. Playlists can be used to group feeds by when or where you read them, as opposed to folders, which can be used to organize feeds by subject matter. To use this features, select the *Playlists* tab.

## How do I email individual news items?

As you read the items that your feeds find, you may well come across a piece of news that you want to share with someone else. Bloglines makes it easy for you to do this – each individual news item has an *Email This* link at the bottom of it:

The screenshot shows the Bloglines website interface. On the left, there are three news feeds: ACRLog, Beyond the Job, and LISNews.org. The LISNews.org feed is expanded to show an item titled "Library window prank" by Karl on final-exam-in-spatial-reasoning. The item text reads: "JET points us to a Cory Doctorow-posted item at BoingBoing: At the Dana Porter Library at the University of Waterloo, Ontario someone went around to every floor closing blinds so that a word was spelled in the windows when viewed from outside." Below the text are links for "Posted on: Thu, Apr 13 2006 12:18 PM", "Email This", "Clip/Blog This", and "Collapse". The "Email This" link is circled in red. On the right, a pop-up window titled "Bloglines" is open, showing an email form. The form fields are: "From: lorie.kloda@mcgill.ca", "To: genevieve.gore@mcgill.ca", and "Subject: Bloglines - Library window prank". The "Message To Include:" field contains the text "This is funny!". A "Send Email" button is at the bottom of the form. The browser's address bar shows "http://www.bloglines.com - Bloglines | Email This - Mozilla Fir...".

- When you click this link, a new window opens – type in the email address of the person you want to send the item to, add in a message, and click on the *Send Email* button.
- The recipient gets an email with your message, a snippet of the item, and a link to the original website.

## How do I save news items? Clippings in Bloglines

You may also find that you want to save several items – either to come back to later, or to put a selection together for a current awareness bulletin, etc.

Again, Bloglines makes this very easy – it allows you to take “Clippings” – and each individual posting from a feed has a *Clip/Blog This* link at the bottom.

Search All Blogs

Directory Share

70 subscribers related feeds unsubscribe edit subscription

## Information Literacy Weblog

We bring you news and reports about information literacy around the world

1 Item | Updated: Wed, Apr 12 2006 2:12 PM

### Plagiarism conference

By Sheila Webber

The JISC funded **2nd International Plagiarism Conference 2006** takes place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, 19-21 June 2006. They haven't yet posted the conference programme, but it will be focused on issues like "Plagiarism and institutional risk management " and "ethics in teaching, learning and assessment": see <http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/conference2006/index.html>

It is organised by Northumbria learning (<http://www.northumbriallearning.co.uk>) who specialise in the anti-plagiarism area and have a newsletter on their website "designed to keep you up to date with the issues and activities surrounding the subject of plagiarism prevention and detection, and IT use in the education sector"

No photos today as I am posting this in a hotel foyer in Stockholm - tomorrow I'm giving a seminar on "Workplace information literacy" with Ola Pilerot. Hope to report on this tomorrow!

[1 Reference](#)

Posted on: Mon, Apr 3 2006 12:46 PM | Updated: Thu, Apr 6 2006 5:15 PM | [Email This](#) | [Clip/Blog This](#) Keep New:

- When you click this link, a new window opens that has the title of the item, and a URL. You can type in further text here if you wish.
- Then just click the *Save to Clippings* folder button at the bottom of that window. You get a message to say that the item has been clicked, and can close that window.
- To find your clippings, click on the *Clippings* tab in the top left hand corner of your screen.
- Your screen will refresh and display a list of the clippings you have made.
- Click on a title in your list to display the item in full on the right hand side of your screen.
- Again, you can edit, delete, re-order and sort your clippings, using the links at the top of the screen.

**Bloglines**

Feeds Blogs **Clippings** Playlists

**Edit**

6 feeds

- Info Literacy
- Health Librarian
  - @ your health library
  - New Version of the NLM Gateway
- Other
  - PowerPoint's "Presenter View"
  - Comment tools for Essay grading
  - How to set up dual monitors
- Searching
- Librarian





# Sharing Your Feeds with Colleagues

## What is a blogroll?

A blogroll is a list of the feeds that an individual subscribes to with their feed reader. It is like a list of “favourites” or “bookmarks” of feeds.

## Where can my colleagues find my blogroll?

People can view your public subscriptions on the Bloglines web site. Refer people to the blogroll URL: [http://www.bloglines.com/public/\[user name\]](http://www.bloglines.com/public/[user name])

e.g. <http://www.bloglines.com/public/literatibrarian>

For this page to be viewable, you must do the following:

Welcome literatibrarian@gmail.com Ask Account

Forums Search

Home > My Account > **Blog Settings**

Basics **Blog Settings** User Profile Feed Options Publisher Tools Developer Tools

### Blog Settings

* User Name	<input type="text" value="literatibrarian"/>	Required for Blogging, Blogrolls, and Email Subscriptions. This name will sign your Blog posts.
Show My Blog	<input type="radio"/> Yes, publish my Blog <input checked="" type="radio"/> No, keep my Blog private	If you make your blog private, it will be accessible only by you. If public, your blog will be accessible at: <b>http://www.bloglines.com/bl</b>
Show My Blogroll	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes, publish my Blogroll <input type="radio"/> No, keep my Blogroll private	If you make your blogroll private, it will be accessible only by you. If public, your blogroll will be accessible at: <b>http://www.bloglines.com/pt</b>
Blog Title	<input type="text"/>	
Blog Description	<input type="text"/>	

- In Account → Blog Settings, enter a User Name, and select **Yes, publish my Blogroll**

They will be able to view your public subscriptions and export them to an OPML (Outline Processor Markup Language, a type of XML) file.

## OPML

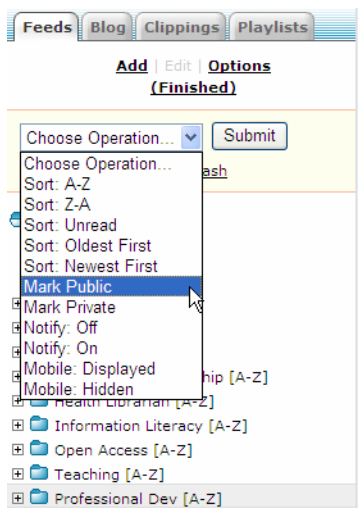
What's an OPML file? OPML stands for Outline Processor Markup Language and it is used to create outlines. In Bloglines, it is used to create a reading list of the feeds to which you subscribe. It makes it easy to move your feeds from one reader to another, for example, while maintaining your folder organization.

We have created an OPML reading lists which lives on an external server. You can download the file to your computer and then import the file into Bloglines, if you would like to quickly subscribe to a bunch of information literacy feeds and would rather not add them one at a time:

<http://hosting.opml.org/literatelibrarian/informationliteracy.opml>

## Privacy

Are you concerned about making your blogroll public and exposing everything in it to others? Fortunately, there is a *private* feature within Bloglines which allows you to make individual feed subscriptions or entire folders *private* if preferred:

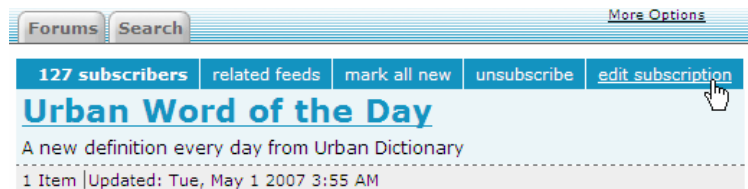


### To make a folder private:

- Right below the *Feeds* tab, click on *Edit*
- Select the folder you would like to make private (selected folders will be covered in a grey banner; to select multiple folders, hold down the *Ctrl* key as you select the folders)
- From the *Choose Operation...* menu, select *Mark Public*
- Click on the *Submit* button
- When done, be sure to click on *(Finished)* toward the top of the column

### To mark an individual feed as private:

- Open the feed in Bloglines
- Click on *edit subscription* (upper right corner)
- Change the Access option from *Public* to *Private*



## Reflection: Sharing feeds

**With whom would you like to share your feeds?**

**Whose blogrolls would you like to see?**



## Using Feeds in Libraries

Reflection: What use(s) do you see for feeds/RSS in your library?



## Suggested Readings

- 7 things you should know about RSS. (2007, April). Educause Learning Initiative. Accessed 28 April 2007 from <http://www.educause.edu/LibraryDetailPage/666?ELI=7024>
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- Laning, M., Lavalley-Welch, C. & Smith, M. (2005). Frontiers of effort: Librarians and professional development blogs. *Journal of Library Administration* 43 (3/4), 161-179.
- McKiernan, G. (2004, September 20). Rich site services: Web feeds for extended information and library services. *LLRX*. Accessed 26 April 2007 from <http://www.llrx.com/features/richsite.htm>
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- Reichardt, R. & Harder, G. (2005). Weblogs: Their use and application in science and technology libraries. *Science & Technology Libraries* 25(3), 105-16.
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A site for librarians and information workers on current awareness strategies, including links to important LIS resources. Accessed 26 April 2007 from <http://staff.philau.edu/bells/keepup/>
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- Wu, W.G. & Li, J. (2007). RSS made easy: A basic guide for librarians. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*, 26(1), 37-49.
- Wusteman, J. (2004). RSS: The latest feed. *Library Hi Tech* 22(4), 404-413.
- Yue, P., Green, A., & Blackwell, L. S. (2006). Do you see RSS in your future? *The Serials Librarian*, 50, 305-310.

### Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this unit, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize a blog, RSS/Atom/XML Feed;
  2. Create an account with a web-based feed reader;
  3. Install a bookmarklet into a web browser to quickly subscribe to new feeds of interest;
  4. Identify directories for locating feeds, journal table of contents alerts, and weblogs in LIS;
  5. Subscribe to several feeds or weblogs on topics of one's choice;
  6. Create and save a literature search alert as an RSS feed;
  7. Organize feeds by subject area;
  8. Tell colleagues what they are reading.
- 

#### **Outcome 1**      Recognize a blog, RSS/Atom/XML feed

Time Allotment:      30 minutes

<b>Key Learning</b>
1.1 Define blog, RSS, Atom, XML format
1.2 Show examples of blogs, news feeds
1.3 How to post to a blog
1.4 Purpose of RSS & readers (news sources vs. correspondence by email)
1.5 Define newsreader (web-based, desktop, add-ons) with examples; show buttons

#### **Outcome 2**      Create an account with a web-based feed reader

Time Allotment:      15 minutes

<b>Key Learning</b>
2.1 Bloglines account creation & verification
2.2 Bloglines account (customize time zone, font, etc.)
2.3 Bloglines notifier

**Outcome 3**

Install a bookmarklet into a web browser in order to quickly subscribe to new feeds of interest

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

**Key Learning**

- 3.1 Drag bookmarklet to IE or Firefox browser toolbar
- 3.2. Demonstrate use of bookmarklet for subscribing to feeds

**Outcome 4**

Identify directories for locating feeds, journal table of contents alerts, and weblogs in LIS

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

**Key Learning**

- 4.1 Directories & Search Engines for locating blogs and news on a particular topic
  - Also customized feeds using search terms or tags within a directory is possible
  - News/Newspaper website updates (e.g. McGill)
  - Blogs – library related and other
  - Podcasts
- 4.2 Names of Publishers that provide RSS feeds for Journal TOCs

**Outcome 5**

Subscribe to several feeds or weblogs on topics of one's choice

Time Allotment: 40 minutes

**Key Learning**

- 5.1 Subscribe to feeds from instructor's list (in workbook) using feature in bloglines
- 5.2 Subscribe using bookmarklet
- 5.3 Search a directory and locate a feed to subscribe to
- 5.4 Select options for a specific feed

**Outcome 6**      Create and save a literature search alert as an RSS feed

Time Allotment:      20 minutes

<b>Key Learning</b>
<p><b>6.1</b> Tools for creating feeds from custom search results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ General web search</li><li>▪ RSS directories</li><li>▪ Bibliographic databases</li></ul> <p><b>6.2</b> Create a PubSub search and save as an RSS feed</p> <p><b>6.3</b> Create a LISTA account. Create a search, and save as RSS (optional? Insert in workbook only?)</p>

**Outcome 7**      Organize feeds by subject area

Time Allotment:      10 minutes

<b>Key Learning</b>
<p><b>7.1</b> Use “Edit” feature in Bloglines to create folders</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Group feeds into folders, customize order, edit names</p>

**Outcome 8**      Tell colleagues what they are reading

Time Allotment:      10 minutes

<b>Key Learning</b>
<p><b>8.1</b> Define Blogroll</p> <p><b>8.2</b> How to determine your blogroll URL</p> <p><b>8.3</b> Other sharing options: Publish to blog, blog URL, exporting OPML file</p>